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Dear Parents/Carers

### **New Phonics Scheme**

We are writing to inform you that we are moving to a new Phonics scheme, beginning after the October half term break. We know that our new scheme, 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' which has been recommended by Reading specialists in Doncaster, will support us in teaching early reading skills in our school. This change will impact the way phonics and reading are taught at Saltersgate and will have a positive effect on the children's learning and the reading culture of our school.

Children's progression in Phonics is directly related to their reading ability. The Little Wandle programme has a thorough and consistent approach which interlinks both of these skills. The aim is for all children to be working alongside their peers with a similar, secure phonic knowledge. The children are taught phonemes (the letter sounds) and the introduction of new formation phrases as well as strategies for blending.

The scheme is set out for Reception and Year 1 and children in Year 2 will be continuing their literacy work, alongside lessons for spelling punctuation and grammar (SPAG).

The children will have daily phonics as normal and then they will have reading practise sessions at school three times a week. This will differ from our individual reading to now becoming group reading sessions. We would like to thank the Governing Body for kindly agreeing to purchase the books for us that go alongside the scheme. They are completely decodable and matched to what is being taught in the lessons. The children will have the same book that they are reading in their practise sessions, and these will be changed once a week.

The scheme promotes a love for reading and this is done by sharing books. Please continue to support us with reading as usual at home, reading daily. As the aim is to create fluency, the children should be reading the book daily at home so it is revisited several times. The book from the Little Wandle scheme is carefully matched to your child's reading level. If your child is reading it with limited support, please do not worry that it is too easy – it is to develop fluency and confidence. Providing lots of praise and encouragement will really help their fluency and confidence.

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The children will be given a reading book when they can demonstrate that they can blend sounds together. When reading at home, the children should be able to show you their reading skills and sound out the words in the book. Please continue to ask them lots of questions such as what is happening in the picture, who is wearing a hat, what might happen next etc? The main aim is to make reading FUN and the children are never too old to be read to.

To support in our transition to Little Wandle, Mr Howse will be hosting information sessions for parents on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 9am, 2:30pm and 5pm. These sessions are open to ALL year groups. Please book onto a session following the link below. The 5pm session will only take place if there is sufficient demand.

9am Session - <https://forms.office.com/e/5stBsCGBnm>

2:30pm Session - <https://forms.office.com/e/DsGhDKd2C5>

5pm Session - <https://forms.office.com/e/KdtsySrJvy>

For further support, please visit the website below. This gives you information about how you can support phonics at home, how the sounds are pronounced, how we will be teaching phonics and the books that will be coming home.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

We are excited about the new scheme and look forward to this new way of working. We know that it will have enormous benefits for the children. Please feel free to ask any questions in the communication book or speak to me in person.

Yours sincerely

*E Anderson*

Mrs E Anderson  
Headteacher